

**Cordell Bank NMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 7, 2005
Minutes**

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Meeting Commenced at 9:45 a.m.

All Present:

Michael Mery
Carol Keiper
Dan Cohen
Tom Lambert
Duffy Ross
Doreen Moser
Joe Smith
James Clemens
Todd Steiner
Dan Howard
Rowena Forest
Brian Johnson

Review this Meeting's Agenda -

Dan Howard requested that voting for officers occur at our next meeting on Sept. 29, 2005 due to lack of attendance by new members at this meeting.

Public Comment Period

Carol asked members of the public present to introduce themselves:

David Wimpfheimer - Naturalist

Michael McGowan - Biologist

Anne Walton – National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) Management Plan
Coordinator

Yasaman Golban – Anne Walton's assistant

**Manager's Welcome and History of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council – Dan Howard**

Dan Howard welcomed the Council to the meeting, and the new members of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). Noting this is the second term of the SAC, and that several previous members "graduated" to second term.

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Dan gave a brief history/overview of the CBNMS Advisory Council:
The first Council for CBNMS was established prior to the Sanctuary Management Plan Review (MPR). For these first three years the Council's focus has been on the MPR: developing criteria, establishing priority issues and working groups. Members of the Cordell Bank SAC sat on each of the working groups, which were developed to address issues for the MPR. Working groups developed recommendations that will guide management of Sanctuary for next 5-10 years.

The SAC/Ecosystem Protection Working Group and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) have promoted regulations to protect the upper pinnacles of Cordell Bank by limiting bottom tending fishing gear. Dan elaborated on the PFMC and NOAA process to reach these regulations, which are currently being pursued using the Magnuson Act and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) standards.

Michael Mery asked how enforcement is delineated.

Dan H.: Elaborated on the balance between education and enforcement, and enforcement with both having a role to create change/encourage resource protection.

Michael Mery asked about monitoring/enforcing gear type on board.

Dan discussed the remaining work to do for the SAC with the MPR, and this council will move more forward into implementation of these recommendations.

Manager's Report – Dan Howard

Dan gave an update regarding the Sanctuary Expansion Bill proposed by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, and the press conference regarding this on July 5, 2005 at Crissy Field, San Francisco.

Dan showed the map of the proposed boundary expansion, pointing out that Bodega Canyon would be included in CBNMS if the expansion were to occur.

Todd Steiner asked for clarification regarding the CBNMS proposed area in relation to the proposed expanded boundaries of Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

Michael Mery suggested that Lynn Woolsey's senior aid, who resides in West Marin, report to the Council on this bill.

Dan covered a proposed energy bill, which is in congress, which could include sonic surveys of an area around the three Sanctuaries if passed.

Dan received the Sanctuaries budget for fiscal year 2006. National Marine Sanctuary Program Headquarters has generated guidance to the individual Sanctuaries in regards to Annual Operating Plans (AOP). CBNMS may receive level funding, but it could be as low as 85% funding, which would necessitate cutting some programs, and covering just staff salary. Dan has submitted the AOP based on the CB Management Plan.

Dan talked about the new vessel the Fulmar, which is a shared vessel for all the West Coast Sanctuaries. It is to be used for Sanctuary research projects. This is being built and is on-line to be delivered in May of 2006

Dan outlined the upcoming field activities for CBNMS:
Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program (CBOMP)

In August there will be a Cal State Monterey multi beam survey of CBNMS. Data from this will be processed to develop maps and information that will be the foundation for several other projects.

Black-footed Albatross tagging project led by Oikonos researchers continues at the Bank. This is conducted to study migrations, feeding territories, and refine the understanding of the localized movements of the individual birds while off CA coast. Dan discussed the problem of plastics in the marine environment and the plastic contents in albatross bolis'/bolii.

Carol Keiper mentioned the "garbage patch" located in the mid-Pacific which is a very large area where plastics gather on the ocean surface in the Pacific Gyre. Carol can show any interested Council members the map of this patch on her computer.

Dan discussed the Delta submersible work, which will be conducted on the Bank this Fall. Results from the submersible survey work will be presented at the October 2005 Marine Protected Area conference in Melbourne, Australia.

Dan also announced the CA Current art exhibit showing at galleries around Marin, which includes video footage of Cordell Bank.

Dan discussed the upcoming oceanographic buoy placement and data collection at CB. This is a joint project with the Bodega Marine Lab and the buoy will have instrumentation to record currents, temperature, chlorophyll, and salinity. Data will be relayed to the lab and displayed on the web.

Michael McGowan – researcher and member of the public – questioned whether this could act as a fish aggregation device in an area that has not been altered in this way in the past. The concern is that this will add a habitat that isn't already at the Cordell Bank and could disturb the environment of the Bank.

Council Member Updates – Carol Keiper

Dan requested that all members introduce themselves and give a little information about their background.

Duffy Ross: Alternate Education seat. Has worked at the Headlands Institute for 8 years, conducts environmental education mostly with grade school-aged kids.

Doreen Moser: Education seat. Works at the Marine Mammal Center. This is her second term on the CBNMS Advisory Council

Joe Smith: Community at Large Marin seat - second term on the Council

Todd Steiner: Alternate Conservation seat. Director of SPAWN, and involved in Leatherback Sea turtle conservation. Currently working to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in Costa Rica.

James Clemens USCG: James has had a background working in and around Cordell Bank before and after its designation as a Sanctuary. Stationed at Bodega Bay Coast Guard Station.

Michael Mery: Community at Large Marin Alternate – is a lifelong resident of West Marin, and environmental activist. Michael has been an active member of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council (TBWC). The TBWC is a stakeholders group of agencies and other groups holding jurisdiction in the Tomales Bay watershed area.

Brian Johnson: Assistant Manager for GFNMS. His responsibility is to build connections between Sanctuaries. Brian also has a long history working with Dan Howard through the Sanctuaries.

Dan Cohen: Research Alternate, second term – Dan is a retired ichthiologist, and has conducted significant submersible research at the Galapagos thermal vents. Two major interests in serving the Council and in CBNMS: The understanding of recruitment of juvenile rockfish, and data storage of all marine data.

Dan Howard requested Council members to look at SIMoN website and think how this tool can best be utilized at CBNMS – which it will come to soon.

Michael Mery questioned cross-data connections and data conformity between studies like the All Taxa Survey of Tomales Bay and other Sanctuary projects. Michael cited that all of the extensive data collected over the past 40 years or so has not been compiled or accessible.

Tom Lambert: Community at Large Sonoma, second term. Tom is an environmental consultant and trained in Marine Biology. Worked in the Sierra on trout studies for PG&E. Tom is a member of conservation clubs in Sonoma including Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Carol Keiper: Research Chair, second term. Carol has been an educator for many years. Involved in at-sea education and research at sea. Co-founder Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, which is getting started with many interesting research projects including the BFAL tagging project, and the bolis study project. Carol discussed the recent trip she took with Jenny Stock, CBNMS Educator, to the Guadalupe Islands to collect Laysan Albatross bolis'. Carol presented materials to share with the Council including NOAA maritime heritage materials. Carol announced a large seabird die-off in Central CA. And a research ship wreck on the reef at Pearl and Hermes NWHI.

Review of the SAC Binder – Rowena Forest and Dan Howard

Dan introduced the Sanctuary Advisory Council Handbooks, which are required reading for each member. The binders were compiled by Rowena Forest.

Rowena handed out inserts to second term Council members to add to their existing handbook/binders, and handed-out new binders to the new Council members.

Rowena reviewed the guidelines for SAC operations and contents of the binders, including but now limited to:

Sanctuary Advisory Council oath

The Cordell Bank SAC Charter

NOAA and National Marine Sanctuary System structure

CBNMS Regulations

CBNMS Permit guidelines and application

Fact Sheets

SAC Communication Protocols

The SAC Handbook, which includes the subjects:

SAC Policy for the National Marine Sanctuary Program

Establishing a Council

Modifying a Council

Lunch 1:00-1:40pm

Joint Management Plan Review Regulations - Anne Walton

Anne reviewed the National Marine Sanctuaries Act including the Designation Document and site-specific regulations.

Regulations have been revised for CB since the recommendations made at the 2004 SAC retreat. Anne gave a power point presentation covering the following:

Management Plan Review (MPR) Key Steps

303(b)(2) Consultation Letter

CBNMS: Proposed Changes to Designation Document

CBNMS: Proposed New Regulations

Modification to Regulations

CBNMS Alternatives Identified but Removed from Consideration

Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) Schedule

JMPR Outreach

Michael McGowan questioned the concern of bacteria contamination/discharge (as addressed in the proposed vessel discharge regulations) over the concern of nutrient discharges into the Cordell Bank waters. Michael McGowan feels nutrient discharge is a serious threat to the environment and not being addressed thoroughly.

The Council raised concerns regarding introduced species regulations. Fishing gear regulations were discussed as well.

Rowena asked all Council members to insert the current regulation handouts, distributed by Anne, into tab four of the SAC Binder

Review of Typical Meeting Agenda and Input for September SAC Meeting Agenda
– Rowena Forest

Rowena covered four past SAC meeting agendas, hi-lighting routine meeting business as well as guest presentations, and issues addressed by the previous Council.

Rowena reviewed a list of items proposed by the Council to be included in the September and December 2005 SAC meetings.

Presentation of awards to Carol Keiper – Dan Howard

Carol was presented with the NOAA Environmental Hero Award, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award for outstanding work in 2005.

Meeting Adjourned 3:11 pm